

Your connection with tribal missions

NEW TRIBES MISSION OF CANADA

# NTM@WORK

DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT CALL! *page 20*

HOW DO MISSIONARY CHILDREN  
GET AN EDUCATION? *page 16*



## Tremendous Examples

for the Church

*page 4*





# AN UPDATE ON THE CONNECTION CENTRE AT EMANATE, NTM CANADA'S MISSIONARY TRAINING CAMPUS

**Big building.  
Big potential.  
Big opportunity.**

## MULTI-PURPOSE

- Church planters from around the world will be trained in Bible translation, discipleship and literacy in the building.
- The Connection Centre will provide a place for missionaries supporting the work overseas to gather for crucial times of fellowship and encouragement.
- The building provides a venue to represent NTM and the work of missions to the local community.

The Connection Centre has strategic potential to help reach the lost. Will you help us unlock its potential?

Your gift will help complete the building, providing a much-needed meeting room and kitchen. You can give using the enclosed response card or by going online to [go.ntm.org/connection-centre](http://go.ntm.org/connection-centre)



# FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friend,

I remember the first time hiking into the mountain hamlet where Awayo lived. We were there to make a video about Awayo's story of moving from fear to faith. When we arrived, he was sitting in front of the men's house and got up to give us the traditional greeting of his people, a two-finger snap.

It became evident that the men's house was where the men sleep. Off to the side was the women's house for women and children. They had lived like this for generations.

But as Awayo and his wife, Simi, grew in their walk with the Lord, they were burdened to love one another and their children more. Seeing their children and their parental responsibilities in a new light, they decided to change their living arrangements.

They built a new house for their family, one that they would all live in together.

"We wanted our own place to live in," Awayo stated.

Simi added, "I feel really burdened about teaching my kids. I pray about that all the time, especially for my little girl. I want her to read and understand the Scriptures when she is older. At night I pray often for that. For those reasons, we built a house where we can all live together.

"This way we can work together to teach our children. We are thinking when they leave home, we really want them to understand God's talk."

Awayo added, "And not just teaching our children but us teaching each other as well."

In their desire to grow in their faith and be better parents, Awayo and Simi did something that had never been done in their people group.

All over the world, God is changing the lives of tribal people like Awayo and Simi through skilled and dedicated missionaries who are translating and teaching God's Word and through you, our partners.

Thank you. This issue of NTM@work is our gift to you.

Macon Hare  
Executive Editor

PS The year 2017 marks 75 years that New Tribes Mission has been a channel for you to reach the dark corners of the world with God's light. So the enclosed 2017 calendar includes quotes from our founders that still inspire us and guide us today and that we hope will do the same for the next 75 years.



Photo by Rich Brown

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# NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

## KODIAKS FOR MEDEVACS

One way the Kodiak aircraft in Papua New Guinea are being put to good use is by saving lives through medical evacuations. In cases where there is a potential for the “loss of life, limb or eyesight,” NTM’s medical staff, NTM Aviation and NTM church planters work together to medevac the patient to NTM’s medical clinic in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea or, if necessary, to nearby Australia. In order to function smoothly in medevacs, the Kodiaks have “Med Sleds” (stretchers) and life ports installed.

Josh and Erin Verdonck, with NTM Aviation, share two examples of how NTM Aviation, working with a team of doctors, nurses and administrators, helps to save lives through medevacs. One incident involved a missionary’s teenage daughter with dengue fever on the island of New Britain. After several days of fever, vomiting and severe dehydration, the team decided to medevac her to the NTM clinic in the Highlands, a 2-hour flight. She and her mother were flown to the clinic where she was treated day and night for four days. NTM Aviation also monitored the situation, ready to medevac her to Australia if needed.

Another case involved a missionary’s son who had an infection in his leg. NTM Aviation evacuated the boy and his mother to the clinic from the tribe where they minister. Once in the clinic,



Photo by Josh Verdonck

the doctors evaluated the situation and quickly decided to medevac him to Australia. NTM Aviation rearranged flights and personnel in order to get the boy’s father (who was then in a different area of Papua New Guinea)

to the hangar in time to catch the medevac flight.

Praise God for His provision of these aircraft to be used for His glory!



Photo by Darcy Berglund

### Semandang New Testament Completed

The Semandang Bible translation began back in 1993. Darcy Berglund began as the main translator on the team composed mostly of Semandang tribal believers. She has since moved into the role of facilitator. The entire New Testament has been translated as well as portions of the Old Testament needed for chronological teaching. Once the translation has been formatted in the United States, it will be sent for printing.

The plan is to have all translated Scripture printed in January 2017 with a dedication planned for June. Praise the Lord for His strength in getting this completed.



Photo by Dan Swanson

### Schools Partnering with NTM Aviation

Missionary aviation continues to meet a critical need in planting churches among isolated people groups. But it takes a team. So NTM Aviation has developed partnerships with aviation schools whose desire is to train pilots and mechanics to serve the Lord overseas. They are strengthening these partnerships by making annual consults with the students who are interested in serving with them.

One of these schools is Moody Aviation where many NTM Aviation pilots and mechanics have trained. NTM Aviation missionaries Dan and Laura Swanson have been on loan to Moody for six years, helping to train new pilots and disciple those interested in serving the Lord in missions. NTM

Aviation has a desire to see other missionary pilots help as training staff in other aviation schools as well.



### Where Has God's Word Not Reached?

D. J. and Tricia Morrison minister in Tanzania, East Africa. In the last few months, D. J. and a team have surveyed three different people groups to determine what kind of impact the gospel has had in those areas — if any. The team plans to survey at least four more people groups by the end of the year. Pray that the Lord would show them through these surveys where NTM should send church planting teams in Tanzania.

## “HAPPINESS IS KILLING US!”



In the three decades since 1986 when the gospel reached the Mouk, the Good News has spread through every village in Mouk territory. Now the Mouks are sending out their

own missionaries to neighbouring people groups. However there's an obstacle confronting the Mouk missionaries. Translating the Bible into another language requires much more education and resources than are currently available to them. Therefore the Mouks asked for a Western missionary couple to join the team and do the translating.

“Convinced that this is what God has for us, we officially accepted the Mouk invitation to join their team,” wrote Josiah and Rachel Van Der Decker.

One of the Mouk elders exclaimed, “We're excited that you are coming. . . . Happiness is killing us that you will join our team in this outreach!”

After building their house in a Mouk village, the Van Der Deckers will begin Mouk culture and language acquisition studies. They plan to spend one to two years learning the culture and language, all the while building relationships with the Mouk churches. The process of culture and language learning will begin again once they move into the new people group with the Mouk team.



# IN PLANTING A CHURCH, CULTIVATING THE SOIL MATTERS

THE MOI PEOPLE PRESENTED HUGE CHALLENGES. BUT GOD USED THE HUMILITY AND PERSEVERANCE OF THE MISSIONARY TEAM, AND LAST YEAR, ELDERS WERE APPOINTED.

## **A HARSH TERRAIN**

The clouds creep silently between the trees — and lower — frosting everything in a steamy dew. It's not always like this in the land of the Moi people. Sometimes it's sunny. Often it rains.

Copious water runs down knife-like ridges. Most will gather into rivulets, then into streams and finally into torrential rivers that cut deep gorges. A little will glom onto the clay soil and make uphill trails a slog and downhill paths slick and treacherous.

What about the level paths, you ask? There's no such thing here.

The rugged terrain is but one of the things that have kept the Moi people isolated.

## **TOO FEW, TOO FAR, TOO YOUNG**

For generations, the Moies have lived in tiny hamlets — two or three huts dotted along a precious less-than-precipitous slope — scattered across a vast territory on the western half of the island called New Guinea.





Illness and improper hygiene kept their numbers low and claimed all but the young and strong. Part of the problem is that the Mois feared spirits who they believed live in the water. When you consider the way rivers rage in their territory, it makes sense to fear bathing there. But it was carried to extremes. The Mois did not bathe at all.

Two particular beliefs about illness add to the problem, said Stephen Crockett, who has lived and worked among them for 16 years: bloodletting and a prohibition against drinking when ill.

**A UNIQUE LANGUAGE**

NTM missionaries were the first outsiders to learn the Moi language, Stephen said. None of the Mois could speak another language.

But in spite of numerous hardships and difficulties, a group of missionaries arrived in 2000 and did more than learn the Moi language.

Stephen and his wife, Carolyn; Anderson and Lieke Panambunan; and Tim and Kathy Whatley sought to



understand the Moï's world and the way the people viewed it. They developed an alphabet, wrote down the Moï language for the first time ever and taught the Moï to read and write their own language.

They translated Bible verses, then wrote Bible lessons tailored to impact the Moï's worldview. After years of preparation, they spent months teaching a small group of Moï from God's Word. By that time, in 2005, Rich and Karen Brown had joined the team.

After carefully introducing the Moï to the Creator, and eventually to salvation through Jesus Christ, the missionaries

and to compare it to the biblical goal of making disciples and establishing a thriving church. And they saw a problem.

"Two of the eight were more middle-aged Moï," Stephen said, "and they were having a hard time letting go of some superstitions and fear of evil spirits."

The team took a fresh look at their foundational lessons, from Creation to Christ. Though there are 70 lessons in the series, it's normal for teams to skip some because they will not communicate well to a particular people group. The Moï team had taught 43 lessons.

Now they prepared 64 lessons.



not only heard seven of the eight people talk about faith in Jesus, but saw it in their lives. And after Rich spent months working with the eighth, Tepaiye, he also understood and his life caught fire for Christ as well.

"The change in the lives of these eight people spoke volumes to the other Moï," Stephen said. "It wasn't long before other Moï were asking to be taught as well. One man in particular, while asking us to teach him, picked up a leaf off the ground and crumbled it in his hand while saying, 'This is what my heart is like because I do not know the Creator's talk.'"

### A STEP BACK

For many, this would be a time to hit the accelerator pedal.

Instead, the team took time to evaluate their progress

"We realized that we needed to slow down our rate of information for the second group as well as hit hard with typical Moï bluntness the things that we saw the first group struggling with," Stephen said.

That willingness to evaluate and, if necessary, adjust or even slow down is "one of the things I admire about them," said Mike Henderson.

Mike, part of the team God used to establish a thriving church among the Aziana people of Papua New Guinea, has been the church planting consultant to the Moï missionary team from the start. And from the start, he saw their challenges.

A monolingual people, a young people and an extremely isolated people, the Moï were "not on the American time schedule," Mike said.

Recognizing that, the team adjusted and taught again. This time, God used the changed lives of those eight





Mois to bring about 60 people to the lessons. And He used the expanded lessons to build a solid foundation in a number of Moi lives.

At that point, the missionaries focused on the long and difficult process of discipling the new believers. “It was slow but it was developing,” Mike said. “They [the missionaries] weren’t antsy to go faster, which I appreciated.”

Mike said the time spent on discipleship allowed the missionaries to tell the believers, when the time came to teach again, “We aren’t going to do the teaching. This isn’t our job. Our job is to help you teach them.”

About a half-dozen Mois took the challenge and found God as faithful to them as He was to the missionaries as they taught the third round of foundational lessons in 2010. That encouraged others, and eventually the fledgling Moi church had some dozen Bible teachers presenting God’s Word.

### THE CHURCH NEEDS LEADERS

From among these men who stepped out would come the leaders of the Moi church. But that would take years and not just because of spiritual immaturity.

At that point, “the only ones who were really positioned for ... future leadership were young men,” said Kevin Miles, a member of the leadership team that oversees the missionaries to the Moi people. “Teens even. With that reality, it was necessary for the team to really take a ‘long view’ of it. They were great young guys, but just needed time to grow and mature generally as well as spiritually.

“The church needs men leading it who are godly and gifted in shepherding the work there. Men who are Moi to the core and can appropriately discern where the nebulous line is between Moi cultural factors and biblical truth and







“The only ones who were really positioned for ... future leadership were young men. Teens even.... They were great young guys, but just needed time to grow and mature generally as well as spiritually.”

— Kevin Miles





values. In many cases those things can coexist and represent the amazing diversity in the Body of Christ, and at other times they cannot, and Moi culture must be superseded by the Truth of God's Word."

Finally, early in 2013, "we were starting to consider a couple of men as potential elders," said Stephen. "They had been faithfully serving their fellow Mois right alongside us, and we felt like maybe the time had come."

The two "were able to teach God's Word and willing to go out of their way to serve others and care for them," Rich said. One was Tepaiye, the man in whom Rich invested months ensuring he understood salvation.

When Stephen and Rich approached them, "they were both very nervous about the whole idea," Rich said. "They knew it was a very great weight and responsibility, which is what you want."

Both men took time to pray and consider the position of elder, and both came back and said they would do it if that was what the Lord wanted.

### NOT SO FAST

Those plans were interrupted at 11:30 in the pitch black of a night with no artificial light for miles, when someone hammered on Rich and Karen's door.

Rich opened it to see one of the two men holding an arrow to his chest, the head pointing at his heart. He was trembling, sweating — distraught. He related to Rich that he had propositioned a married woman.

The woman, a believer, told the man, "There's no way we could do this. You're a child of God, and I'm a child of God. That would be wrong." She added, "If you don't go tell Stephen and Rich, I'm going to tell them."

Rich calmed him down, got him to put down the arrow and sent him home so they could talk with clearer heads in the morning. Unfortunately, in the morning he was already minimizing what he had done. But Stephen, Rich and the Moi Bible teachers would not let it pass. "Eventually," Rich said, "he wanted to take full responsibility for what he had done."

"It was an incredibly sobering thing for us," Rich added.

"The Lord used [that] to show us that they were not quite ready yet," Stephen said. "One of the things you experience in an adolescent church: one minute they're acting so grown up and mature, and the next minute they're acting like they're back in junior high."

### SIGNS OF HOPE

Meanwhile, two of the Bible teachers, Deoma and Bumani, were "tremendous examples for the church," Rich said. Bumani was used of the Lord to plant a church in another village, and Deoma's heart for discipleship led him to teach in a number of different places.



# AWAYO'S STORY

For generations, the Moi people lived in fear of the spirits and died without hope. When people came with a new message, Awayo declined to hear it ... until he saw the changes in the lives of those who had listened.

Watch Awayo, Fear to Faith:  
[www.reachbeyondyourworld.com](http://www.reachbeyondyourworld.com)





On top of that, “they were facing difficulties — Bumani in particular — and stuck it out. . . . There were many challenges but they were faithful.”

Tepaiye stepped up when Stephen and his wife, Carolyn, were about to leave for home assignment in May 2014. At a church meeting, he called on the believers to gather around Stephen and Carolyn to lay hands on them, pray for them and commit them to the Lord.

“I remember feeling the weight of those hands and looking at the dirty, mud-stained, calloused feet surrounding me, legs covered with ulcers, and thinking that this was the most beautiful and moving experience in the world,” Stephen said.

“Tepaiye showed real sensitivity and maturity that day in leading the church to come before the Lord, to step out and do something a bit different.”

When Rich and his family left in October 2014, the Bible teachers faithfully continued to teach and feed the believers. “They were growing in their ability and their comfort in being able to handle things,” Rich said.

### THREE ELDERS APPOINTED

The whole time, the Moi believers knew from Bible studies what leaders were supposed to be like. They were praying for God to raise up the right men from among them, as were Stephen and Rich.

**“One of the things you experience in an adolescent church: one minute they’re acting so grown up and mature, and the next minute they’re acting like they’re back in junior high.”**

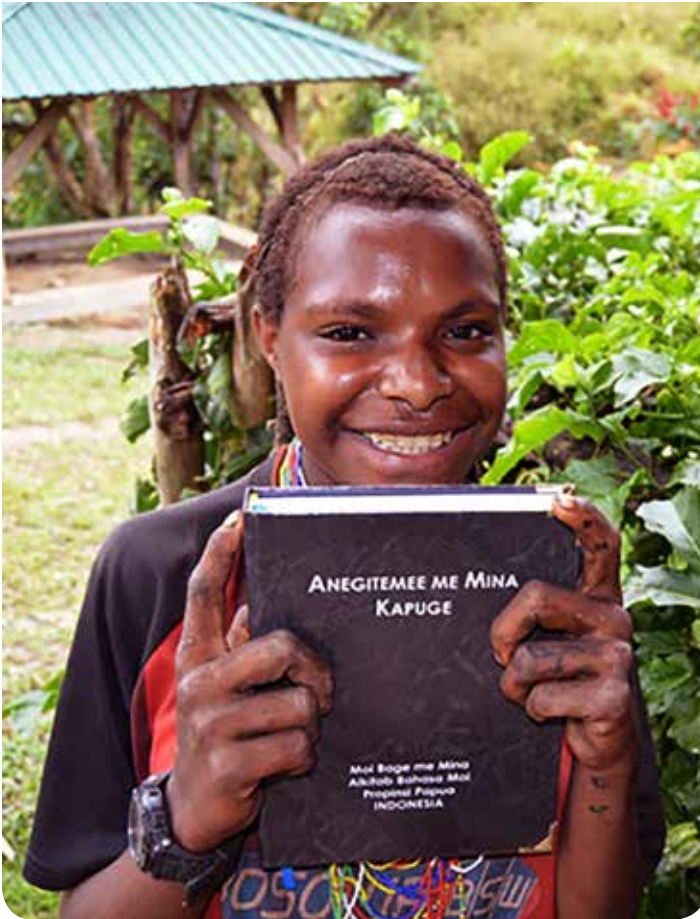
**— Stephen Crockett**

When Rich returned, he began asking believers who they thought God was raising up to be elders.

“Deoma, Bumani and Tepaiye — those names would consistently come up,” Rich said. That was in line with what he was seeing, and he was greatly encouraged.

Stephen also returned, and agreed. He saw them teaching twice a day, faithfully and well. He observed them dealing with sin issues in the church. He saw them leading. He saw that “these young men [were] demonstrating elder qualities and [were] in fact for all practical purposes functioning as elders.”





He also studied what the Bible said about leaders, and he realized “that... we need these men to be growing and taking on more and more responsibility, partnering in increasing amounts with us if we are truly to see this work done.”

Rich and Stephen approached the three men about becoming elders. Since it was common in Moi culture for men to leave for long blocks of time and ignore family responsibilities, they spoke about that in typically Moi fashion: bluntly.

The three responded with sober introspection to the challenge of being elders. They all felt they could trust the Lord to enable them to take on the responsibilities. Bumani even gave his house and garden to the people in the village where he was living in order to move to a more central location for shepherding the church.

Bumani, Deoma and Tepaiye were ordained as elders of the Moi church last fall.

“God is indeed building His church, and He is bringing together the right group of men who will be able to lead and grow with the Moi church to maturity,” Stephen said.

— Ian Fallis, Contributing Editor



After 15 years writing and editing for daily newspapers, Ian Fallis has spent almost 20 years writing and editing for New Tribes Mission. He’s interviewed missionaries and the people they serve around the world, travelling to Africa, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region. Sunrise Church Ontario in California has faithfully stood by him throughout his ministry.





# Bumani's Testimony

Before [I knew the Creator God], I was very afraid of evil spirits. I was bitten a lot by centipedes, and that again made me afraid of the evil spirits. I thought I was going to die. That's how I used to live; that's how I used to think. But when I thought, "It's true" about Jesus, on that day my fear of spirits became small. It was like the fear was dead.

I realized that I [had been] living under the chin (authority) of Satan, and that's why I was afraid. My fear of spirits, of centipedes and of dying — all those He caused to be done for me [because] Jesus died for me, His blood was shed for me. Wow, thank you, Creator God, thank you! Now my life is really a life of peace, because the Creator God has freely caused





me to live well because of His love for me.

The Creator gives an elder his job. This is a really big job. An elder does not hold to this job because he wants to nor is it a job that makes him live better. It's a job that the Creator set up for him to do.

Since the Creator placed that job for me to do, it's good. The Creator didn't give us this job to live big over people. It's good for us to put ourselves small under other people. Pray that we will have that humility.

I'm just a man, just a small person, so Satan is able to tempt me, and I can easily become proud. My friends, please pray to the Creator for me.

One thing I pray daily for is this: since our lives are in the Creator's hands, who will He also place as elders? Who will it be? We just don't know whom the Creator will choose. I pray that the Creator will choose three more people to be elders. I pray that all the time. So, my friends

over there, please pray that for us too.

And another thing I pray daily for is the people here who are on the Creator's side. I pray constantly that their hearts will become mature in Jesus. Since their hearts seem to be going back and forth all the time, I pray for them constantly that they may become mature.

Another thing I pray for continually is the people living around us who haven't heard the Creator's talk. Please pray that they might hear the Creator's talk and become people on His side.

And for you living in America, you should go and take His talk to people all around you in other lands too. His good talk is for all mankind, so give up the things you want to do, and go tell people all around you in the distance. We can't make ourselves alive, and only His talk can make us alive, so go and tell people all around you in the distance. That's the talk I want to tell you.



# WAYUMI EXPEDITION

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Photo by Dale Stroud

## CONNECT WITH ...

### **Ryan and Kirsten Kurvits** Dante

Training Church Planters at  
*Emanate* in Ontario, Canada  
Sending Church: Meridian First  
Baptist Church, Idaho

Kirsten is originally from California, Ryan is from Northern Ontario, and we met at a Bible camp in Idaho. It's a crazy, fun story that God has woven to lead us to each other and into what He is doing in the world. Our son, Dante, joined our team last January and has kept us on our toes

ever since.

Our family is excited about helping the number of people groups without the gospel go down. We are currently doing this in Canada by training others at Emanate. Kirsten helps coordinate the training centre's social media and teaches some of the Bible courses with the ladies. Ryan teaches different classes on linguistics and teamwork, along with coordinating the daily chapel.

While we love training others, we feel God would have us GO. We hope to join the team in Paraguay in 2018. We desire to participate in what God is doing to build His church there.

Connect with Ryan and Kirsten at  
[canada.ntm.org/ryan-and-kirsten-kurvits/](http://canada.ntm.org/ryan-and-kirsten-kurvits/)

Check out what God is doing at Emanate  
[emanatetraining.ca](http://emanatetraining.ca)





# CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

## AN NTM WAYUMI FORUM

For almost 75 years New Tribes Mission has been working overseas with diverse ethnic groups — currently over 250 — and God has taught us much about communicating His Truth cross-culturally. Let us share what we have learned with you.

The Wayumi campus of New Tribes Mission is offering a forum for churches who desire to reach out to immigrant communities in their backyard. . . . .

**DATES:** March 1-3, 2017 — the forum begins the evening of March 1 and finishes the morning of March 3.

**LOCATION:** NTM Wayumi Campus 241 Old Forge Hill Rd, Jersey Shore, PA 17740, USA

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** [wayumi@ntm.org](mailto:wayumi@ntm.org)  
570.398.0639

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The Wayumi campus will provide lodging and meals during the forum.

**ON REGISTRATION FORM, SELECT:** Forum

**COST:** \$99 USD per attendee — covers lodging, meals and forum materials.

**John and Krista Poidevin**  
**Titus, Moriah and Silas**  
**Church Planters to East Africa**  
**Sending Church:** Bethel Chapel,  
Waterloo, Ontario

*John and Krista were both raised in very mission-minded Christian homes. John on the mission field in Zambia and Krista in rural Ontario.*

We met and served together first through the Christian fellowship group at Conestoga College. Following our graduations and marriage, God placed us in Kitchener. There He allowed us to be part of Bethel Chapel and to serve in our neighbourhood with the ministry MoveIn while we began our family and worked our regular jobs in the hospitals. Our desire to be used in missions was fulfilled through MoveIn which encourages regular Christians to live in specific neighbourhoods that are physically

and spiritually needy; to pray for and be a light to their neighbours.

While we loved our neighbourhood, we continued to desire to be used overseas and in 2014 God led our family to enter *Emanate*, NTM Canada's missionary training program, knowing it would serve us well in whatever ministry capacity God called us into. All of us, including Titus (6 years), Moriah (4 years) and Silas (2 years) loved our time of training in Durham.

From there God led us to NTM's linguistics program in Missouri, to better prepare for writing God's Word in the language of a people who have never before heard.

We look forward

to completing our Linguistics course in December 2016 and Lord willing, desire to join the team in East Africa in August 2017.

Connect with John & Krista at  
[canada.ntm.org/john-and-krista-poidevin/](http://canada.ntm.org/john-and-krista-poidevin/)

Learn about MoveIn at  
[www.movein.to](http://www.movein.to)





## Dividing the Work, Multiplying the Effort: Educators Play a Critical Role in Church Planting

How does a missionary family living on a remote island care for the education and socialization needs of their four daughters? ... Not by themselves.

Lori Luse had little left at the end of the day with the responsibilities of preparing the meals and homeschooling three girls in three different grades. Even with her husband Aaron teaching math, they were both stretched.

Not to mention their extensive responsibilities in Bible translation, discipleship and teaching literacy to the Patpatar people in Papua New Guinea.

“Thankfully we were not in it alone.”



### HOMESCHOOL COORDINATOR TO THE RESCUE

Dawn Eggleton, NTM’s homeschool coordinator in Papua New Guinea, “would do whatever was necessary to make sure she met with us.” Dawn administered annual standardized tests and then consulted with Aaron and Lori to discuss direction, tools and things to consider or change.

Aaron cites a few examples.

“When one of our daughters was struggling with spelling, a curriculum was recommended and sent to us specifically for her. When another was having learning difficulties early on, it was caught, and again Dawn provided direction so we could walk her through that before it became a lifelong struggle.”

Lori was even able to check out books from the school library via email, receive them by plane and use them for months at a time until

the next plane or boat could return them.

### NUMONOHI CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

When their daughter Avalon reached high school age last year, Aaron and Lori enrolled her in Numonohi Christian Academy (NCA) where she was a dorm student on the main island. “For our family and for her it was the best option and a wonderful step towards her transition as an adult, who in just a few short years will be out on her own.

“The hours of stories she told us and the hundreds of pictures helped fill in the pieces of what we already knew to be true. We had spent time getting her settled into the school, we had met the teachers, we had toured the classrooms, we had spent time getting to know her ‘dorm parents’ and we felt the heart behind all who were involved in her education.”

Avalon played organized sports for the first time and participated in drama club and the student planning committee. “She was getting a top-quality education from teachers who took the time to teach, re-explain assignments and give encouragement when needed, all from a Christ-centred environment.”

### TEACHERS THAT CARE

Patrick Eggleton (Dawn’s husband) was Avalon’s geometry teacher last year. Aaron and Lori greatly appreciated Patrick and Dawn. They write of Patrick’s teaching: “He was always available for Avalon and the other students to ask questions and see how it applied in real life. He also



sent Lori and me short emails to let us know how things were going from his perspective.”

### A TEAM EFFORT

Patrick explains how he went from a professorship at a university to teaching at a mission school: “When we [initially] served on a one-year assignment to Numonohi Christian Academy in 2005-2006, we were powerfully impacted by the team effort that was involved in sharing the love of God with the people of Papua New Guinea.

“Prior to living in a foreign country, I had no real sense of how unable the people are to hear anything about God. By sharing our gifts in education, we were able to make it possible for others with gifts in linguistics and discipleship to be able to live in the remote villages and share the love of God with the people there. Families serving overseas go trusting God to meet the needs of their children. Our loving God has provided well-trained

educators to meet the needs of these families while they share God’s love with the people.”

Patrick and Dawn recently returned to the United States where he is again teaching mathematics at a university. Of his time teaching missionary children he reflected, “We didn’t feel that we had much to offer on the mission field, but we surrendered what we did have to God to use in His ways. Allowing God to work through us, we have seen many families impacted through our service, and ultimately we know that many who had no opportunity to hear of the gospel have now heard.”

This year Sierra, Avalon’s sister, has joined her at NCA. Aaron and Lori say that she couldn’t wait to share in all that she has been hearing about for the last year.

Meanwhile, Aaron and Lori, confident that this is what is best for their daughters at this stage in life, continue to advance in their church planting ministry in the village.

### THANKFUL HEARTS

Aaron sums it up like this: “We truly are thankful for the support structure in place to help with our girls’ education both in homeschooling and in dorm schooling. We are so grateful for the part that they have in the big picture of tribal missions.”

Are you an educator? You can use your career skills on the church planting team to see people around the world reached with the gospel and discipled!

— David Pierce, Staff Writer



Sent by Calvary Monument Bible Church in Paradise, Pennsylvania, and Westside Community Chapel in Amboy, New York, David, his wife, Michelle, and their six children, served in

Papua New Guinea for 13 years. As God closed doors there, He opened new doors of service with NTM’s Communications team in Sanford, Florida. If you ask David where he is from, he finds it difficult to give a concise answer.

[canada.ntm.org/go/teach-abroad](http://canada.ntm.org/go/teach-abroad)



“She was getting a top-quality education from teachers who took the time to teach, re-explain assignments and give encouragement when needed, all from a Christ-centred environment.”



# PRAY

■ **“The malarial fever seized the old and mentally failing woman, sending shock waves of a freezing sensation over her frail body,”** shared Jonathan Kopf, missionary to the Hewa in Papua New Guinea. “Kolumpi’s every joint ached. Her teeth chattered uncontrollably and her only thought was to warm herself to stop the chills.

“She sat trembling on the floor, as close to the fire as possible, her clouded mind not alert enough to notice the flames bursting upward to the underside of the firewood rack. It was less than a minute before sparks floated up into the leaf roofing. A blaze instantly swept through the entire roof.”

It could have ended tragically. It would have ended tragically, if it weren’t for Jelemaiya. Ignoring the risk to his own life, he entered the burning hut in search of Kolumpi. He found her and rescued her. Safely outside, gasping for breath, he turned in time to see the burning roof collapse.

Missionaries John and Jessi George and Jonathan and Susan Kopf watched on alongside the villagers as the walls collapsed and the family’s possessions were reduced to ashes.

“I listened to them talking, concerned their faith might be shaken,” wrote Jonathan. “Then the conversations took a shift toward gratefulness. ... I was encouraged as I heard them speak of their confidence in the Lord and His purposes for their lives. Please continue to pray for the Hewa. Their lives are filled with hardships and discouragements, but the believers are continuing to grow in their faith.

“Pray that nothing will dampen their faith, but that they will continue to be passionate about growing in a friendship relationship with their Creator.”



Photo by Regina Rodman

## ■ The IT Department at NTM USA’s home office has had a busy year.

In addition to their ongoing ministry responsibilities, they’ve undertaken several big projects — and all this while sorely short-staffed.

“We need more personnel,” wrote Jeff Porter, IT Director. “In the past two years we have lost five key highly skilled technical personnel and this has put a real strain on those remaining. We currently have eight positions that need filling.”

Their current greatest need is for new personnel with training and/or experience in network and system engineering. Next on their wish list is a computer support specialist. They recognize that their support services are suffering due to a shortage of personnel — and they don’t want it to be that way.

Do you have skills as a network or systems engineer or computer support specialist? Would you pray about using those skills on the missionary team? Also pray that God would provide His people to fill these positions and for wisdom and strength for the current staff.

*Similar needs exist on the IT team at NTM Canada’s home office and training centre.*



## ■ Markus\* didn’t deserve it. He hadn’t done anything wrong, but his relatives were kicking him out.

They told him that if he was going to believe in God and hold onto God’s talk, then he would have to find somewhere else to keep his stuff.

As missionary Craig Schafer helped this tribal man, who’d faithfully helped him develop Bible lessons, move his belongings out of the building, he asked him how he was handling these difficult circumstances. Markus just shrugged and said, “It’s not a big deal.”

Knowing it should be a big deal, Craig pressed a bit. “How would you have handled this in the past, before you became a believer?” he asked Markus.

“Oh, I would have gotten ticked off and would not have left!” Markus told him. “I would have made sure everyone knew how ticked I was!”

## But not now. The truths from God’s Word had done a work in this man’s life.

“It was such a challenge to me to see this man being unjustly treated and yet taking it with humility, and to be reminded again of the power of the Spirit,” Craig wrote. “Though they aren’t being beaten for their faith, they are being persecuted in ways like this, and it is hard for them. But the Spirit is working powerfully in them and there are some unbelievers who are now seeing and noticing a difference in the ones who have trusted Christ as their Saviour.”

Please pray for Markus and the other believers, that their changed lives would be a living testimony before their unbelieving friends and relatives.

*\*Not his real name.*



Photo by Jonathan Kopf

May our hearts shift toward gratefulness...



# BIG BUILDING. BIG POTENTIAL. BIG OPPORTUNITY.

The strategic value of the Connection Centre at **NTM Canada's missionary training campus** is almost immeasurable because it affects so many people.

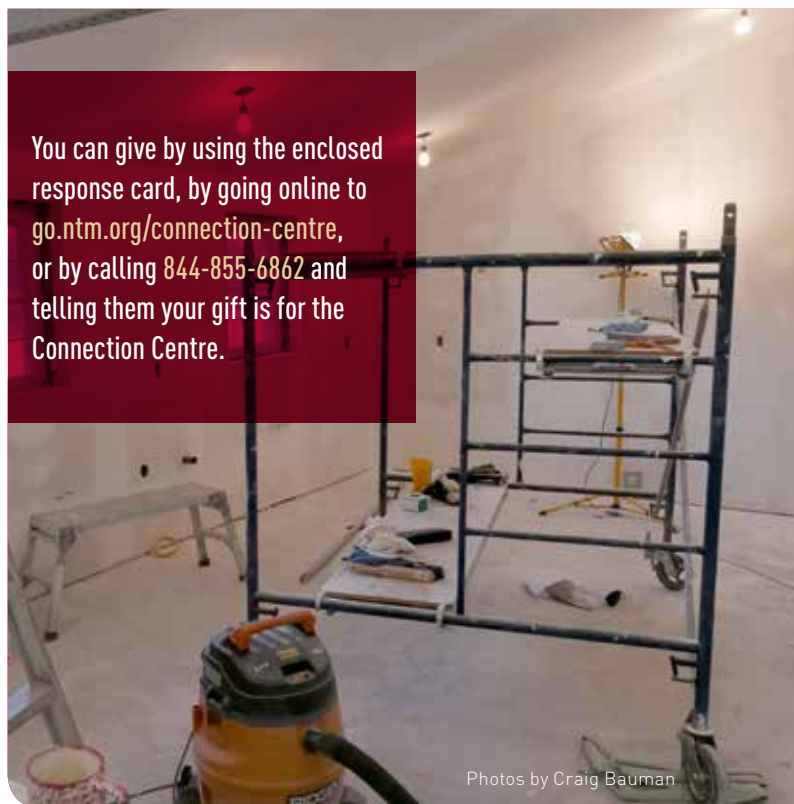
**With its completion, the Connection Centre will have a lasting impact on the Lord's work among unreached people groups, worldwide.**

**Here's how:**

- It will provide a much-needed venue for teaching and conferences where NTM missionaries can be trained to more effectively translate the Scriptures, plant churches and disciple believers.
- It will provide a place for missionaries supporting the work overseas to gather for critical times of fellowship and encouragement.
- It will provide an excellent setting to engage the local community with the vision of New Tribes Mission — to see a thriving church established for every people.

**Would you consider helping to finish the building? Here are some examples of how you can give to help the project.**

- A gift of \$100 pays for one of the 24 heavy-duty tables needed.
- A gift of \$475 provides for a set of four stacking chairs.
- A gift of \$2,400 purchases a commercial dual-temperature refrigerator.
- A gift of \$8,800 helps to further outfit the kitchen, which will include a 6-burner stove.



You can give by using the enclosed response card, by going online to [go.ntm.org/connection-centre](http://go.ntm.org/connection-centre), or by calling 844-855-6862 and telling them your gift is for the Connection Centre.

Photos by Craig Bauman

## NTM is now serving Canada's First Peoples

The spiritual state in northern Canada is desperate. In response to this need, God is opening doors for NTM to partner with Northern Canada Evangelical Mission (NCEM) to establish thriving churches within Canada's First Nations and Inuit communities

We are calling this partnership *First Story Ministries*.

 **firstStory**  
ministries.ca

Incredible momentum is already building around adapting NTM's church planting and discipleship curriculum for use within these communities.

Please be praying for First Story Ministries. Our desire is to walk with the Lord in this new venture.

To learn more, visit: [firststoryministries.ca](http://firststoryministries.ca)



# Be an Ambassador

If the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau himself, called you and said, “I’m appointing you an ambassador,” what’s the second thing you’d do?

I’m assuming the first would either be making sure it really was Mr. Trudeau or getting up off the floor.

For me, the second thing I’d do would be to say, “Ambassador to where?”

I would assume I’d have to leave Canada. Wouldn’t you? That’s what an ambassador does, right? They go somewhere else to represent Canada, to carry messages and even to embody the principles of our country and be a symbol of it somewhere else.

With that in mind, think about 2 Corinthians 5:20: *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”*

Every time I’ve heard people talk about that verse, it’s been taken to mean, “We’re God’s representatives.”

But if that’s the point, why did Paul use the word “ambassadors” instead of “representatives”? Just as in English, those are two distinct words in New Testament Greek. An ambassador is indeed a representative — but a very specific kind of representative. An ambassador is a representative who is sent out. And that makes perfect sense when we remember who Paul was: a missionary, one who was sent.

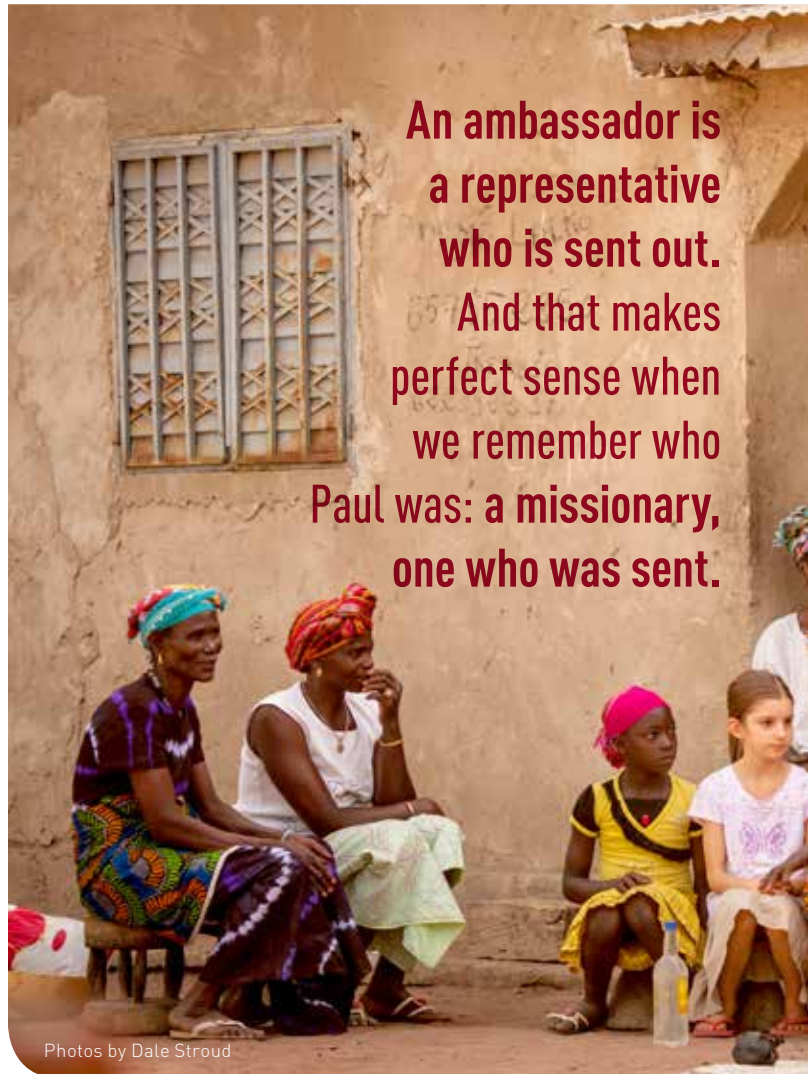
Paul refers to himself as an ambassador in Ephesians 6:17-20:

*And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints — and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.*

Clearly, Paul is referring to his role in spreading the gospel as being an ambassador.

That comes into clearer focus if we look at 2 Corinthians 5:20 in the context of the surrounding verses, 18-21:

*Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to*



Photos by Dale Stroud

**An ambassador is a representative who is sent out. And that makes perfect sense when we remember who Paul was: a missionary, one who was sent.**

*Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

*Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

We have been given the ministry of reconciliation — a ministry to the world — and that is what makes us ambassadors.



## Paul could have called us 'representatives,' but he didn't.

So where are you taking the word of reconciliation? Into your workplace and your community? Into a nearby community that needs to know the God who plans a hope and a future for us? Or perhaps into a distant community where there are few or no believers?

You see, you've gotten that call I mentioned at the beginning. Only it came from Someone much higher than the Prime Minister. Go. Be His ambassador.

— Ian Fallis, Contributing Editor



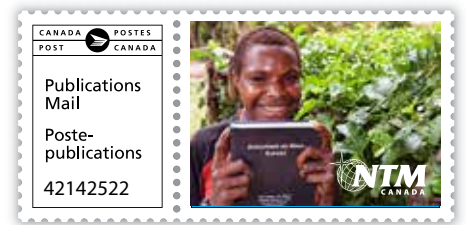


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# MAKE AN IMPACT FOR ETERNITY

AS AN EDUCATOR OF MISSIONARIES' CHILDREN

READ MORE  
ABOUT EDUCATING  
MISSIONARIES'  
CHILDREN ON  
PAGE 16.

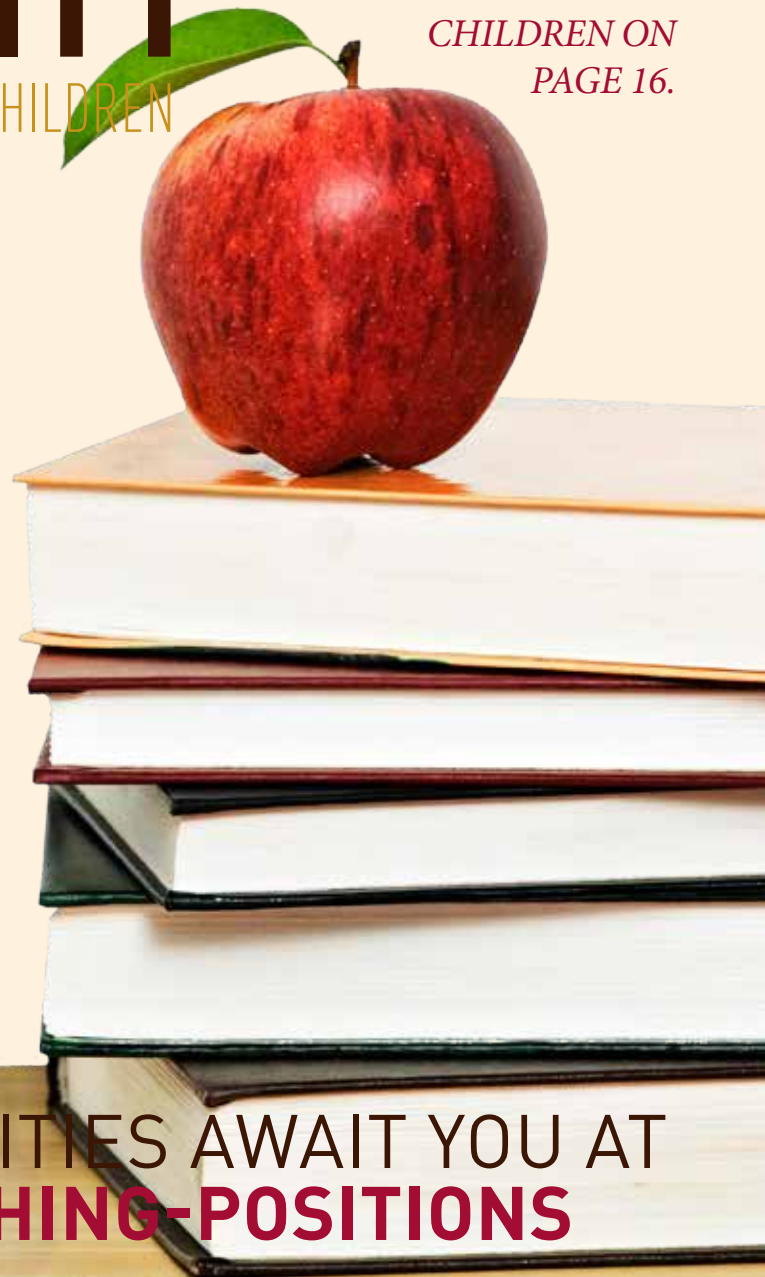
“We view our ministry in the school as two-fold. Not only do we support the church planting work in the tribes, but we also invest ourselves in the lives of the students.

“It is exciting to see God work in the lives of our students, to see them growing not only academically and socially but spiritually as well.”

—Neil and Becky Burlison,  
*Papua New Guinea*

As an educator with NTM you will:

- Provide a quality education to children of missionaries.
- Impact young lives for Christ.
- Build a legacy. Many students return as missionaries.
- Play a crucial role on the church planting team.



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